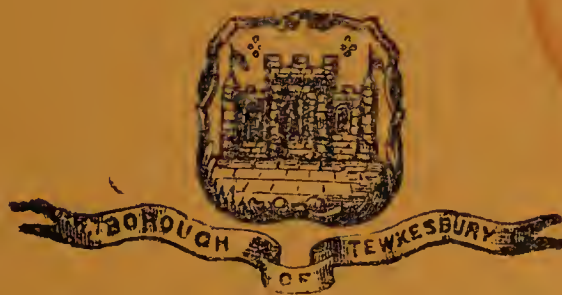


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Borough of Tewkesbury

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

**R. A. NEWMAN
PRINTER TEWKESBURY**

Borough of Tewkesbury

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Tewkesbury.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1937.

This report incorporates the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors and is compiled to conform with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935; Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, and is on the lines of the Ministry of Health Circular 1650 dated October 4th, 1937.

As I am new to the District, and as this is my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough, I should like to thank the Council for the assistance they have given me, and also to thank the officials, especially Mr. Ridlen and his staff for helping me to get to know the details of Public Health conditions in the Borough, more particularly in connection with Housing.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 15th, 1938

Public Health Officials of the Authority.

T. H. HOLROYD, M.B., B.S., Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Officer of Health (resigned 31. 3. 37).

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M.,
Medical Officer of Health, Assistant Medical Officer of
Health for the County of Gloucester and Medical Officer
of Health for the Rural Districts of Gloucester and
Newent. (Appointed 1. 4. 37).

W. RIDLER, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing and Petroleum Acts, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

A. J. STROUD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods. (Appointed 1. 4. 37).

Adoptive Legislation in force in the Area.

Bye-laws.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 (Section I).

Bye-laws with regard to New Streets and Buildings adopted 2. 4. 29.

The Council are considering the adoption of Model Bye-laws with regard to Tents, Vans and similar structures. This is very necessary owing to the presence of one large and very popular camping ground in the area, over which at present there is but little control.

Vital Statistics.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the area, while a complete list of the causes of death will be found in Table 13 at the end of the Report. In addition, they show various Rates which are compared where possible with those of England and Wales.

It will be seen that the Birth-rate is a good deal below that for the whole country, while the Death-rate is slightly higher. It is, however, satisfactory to note that there were no illegitimate births and no maternal deaths.

Table I. Infantile Births and Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Combined Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births ...	21	30	51	—	—	—	51
Still Births ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	1	2	3	—	—	—	3

Table 2. Deaths.

Total Deaths	Male 46	Female 22	Total 68
Deaths included in the above from :—			
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea under two years of age	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	—

Table 3. Birth and Death Rates.

	Borough of Tewkesbury	England and Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	11·7	14·9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...	nil	39
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	15·6	} 12·4
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	12·9	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ...	58·8	58
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	58·8	not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ...	nil	not available
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births ...	nil	3·11

* Note—The corrected Death Rate is obtained by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the factor 0·83. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General and serves to make the Crude Death Rate for the district comparable, from the mortality point of view, with the Death Rate for the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other area, the Crude Death Rate of which, has been similarly modified,

Statistics and Social Condition of the Area.

Area (in acres) 2,651.

Population (Registrar General's estimate Mid 1937) 4,357.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books, 1375.

Rateable Value, £ 23,620.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £98 8s. 4d.

Social Conditions and chief Industries.

The Borough is mainly residential in character; there are however Flour Mills in the district, while on the outskirts the chief industry is farming. A small amount of glove-making is carried on by outworkers.

The Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Board's Waterworks lie in the Borough and enlargement of these is likely in the course of the next few years.

Tewkesbury is a town of great historical and architectural interest. The Abbey, and the many fine examples of old half-timbered houses attract visitors in large numbers and these may perhaps be considered to supply the town with its main industry.

It is unfortunate that the houses in many of the courts and alleys in which the town abounds, and which are so attractive to the sight seeing tourist are unsatisfactory from the Health and Housing points of view.

Unemployment.

Unemployment in the Borough at the end of the last two years.

Table 4.

	Dec., 1936	Dec., 1937
Men	189	138
Women	36	51
Boys and Girls	7	15
	232	204

It will be seen that there has been a considerable drop in the unemployment figures for men, but a slight increase in unemployment among women and juveniles.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Section B.

I ii (a) Laboratory Facilities.

There is no County Laboratory in Gloucestershire, so analyses and examinations of water, milk, medical specimens, etc., are carried out as follows:—

Water analyses by Rowland H. Ellis, Esq., County Analyst, Gloucester.

Milk. i. School Milk samples at the laboratory of Cheltenham General Hospital.

ii. Routine milk samples from herds are taken by the County Veterinary staff.

Medical Specimens, e.g., the examination of swabs for diphtheria, etc., are examined in the laboratory at the Cheltenham General Hospital.

ii (b) Ambulance Facilities.

Up to September 30th, 1937, the same ambulance, the property of the Town Council, was used both for Non-Infectious disease cases and Infectious disease cases.

After September 30th it was only used for non-infectious disease cases. Infectious disease cases are now treated at the Delancey Hospital, Cheltenham, whose ambulance is used.

ii (c) Nursing in the Home.

The Tewkesbury District Nursing Association has the services of 3 nurses who undertake the midwifery and general nursing in the town and also in three parishes in the Cheltenham Rural District. In addition, they do school medical work, health visiting and Infant Welfare work.

ii (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A weekly school clinic and a fortnightly Infant Welfare Centre are held under the charge of the doctors in the town, who take duties in turn. An Orthopædic nurse visits the town weekly and an Orthopædic surgeon every quarter.

Tuberculosis: The visits of the Tuberculosis Officer are arranged as necessary.

ii (e)

Hospitals.

The Tewkesbury Voluntary Hospital, opened in 1935, has accommodation for 20 patients, and is available for cases in the Borough and surrounding district.

The Tewkesbury Isolation Hospital, with accommodation for 26 cases (17 Scarlet Fever cases; 5 Diphtheria cases and 4 cubicle wards) had unfortunately to be closed on September 30th, 1937, largely owing to lack of support from adjacent areas. It is to be hoped that it may be possible to re-open it shortly, as it is of quite modern design, having been built in 1910.

ii (f).

Mortuary.

There is a small mortuary, the property of the Corporation. It cannot be considered entirely satisfactory.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**Section C.**

I (i)

Water.

Almost all the houses in the more populous parts of the district are supplied from the mains of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board. Frequent analyses of the water are made at the Tewkesbury purification works by a full-time chemist, and the results show that the water is of excellent quality after chlorination. There has been no shortage during the year.

I (ii)

Sewage Disposal.

There are two sewage disposal works in the Borough, the smaller one at Newtown deals with houses on the Ashchurch Road, while the other, adjoining Lower Lode Lane deals with the main bulk of the sewage of the town.

The Newtown works appear to deal with the sewage satisfactorily; but this cannot be said of the other works. These latter merely consist of two sedimentation tanks in parallel; they are situated at a low level and are flooded when the river rises to any extent. They are quite inadequate for the work and provide practically no purification of the crude sewage.

The question of new sewage works was considered advisable in 1931 and a consultant engineer (M. G. Weekes, Esq.) submitted a scheme to the Council, which involved the provision of entirely new works on the Gloucester Road at an estimated cost of £23,000. It appears that the whole scheme of sewage disposal in the town will again have to be seriously considered by the Council.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No special action has been taken during the year to prevent pollution of streams by sewage.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Nearly all the houses in the Borough have water-closets with main drainage. In the outlying parts where there are no sewers, a few houses are on the conservancy system.

No. of houses with pail closets	...	...	21
No. of houses with private water-carriage systems	...	...	23

(ii) Public Cleansing.

Most of the Borough is scavenged for house refuse twice a week, a few houses are scavenged weekly, while some of the houses in the rural part of the Borough deal with their own refuse.

The refuse is dealt with by "Controlled Tipping," the Borough owning two tips and also having the use of a private one on the Ashchurch Road. There have been no complaints of any nuisance caused by smell, etc., from the tips.

Refuse Receptacles.

No uniformity in the type of refuse receptacles is insisted on, with the result that there are very few dust bins and refuse is stored in unsatisfactory and unhygienic containers. The Council are considering making the provision of regulation dust bins compulsory, (Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936). This step is very advisable in the interests of health.

3. (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department is tabulated below. More detailed accounts of inspections will be found under the appropriate headings.

Table 5.

	No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Nuisances abated after Notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses ..	387	7	21	6	26
Common Lodging Houses	2	—	—	—	—
Bake-houses	44	2	—	1	—
Cowsheds and Dairies, etc	10	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses .	313	1	—	1	—
Canal Boats	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops	63	7	—	6	—
Residences of Outworkers	15	1	—	1	—

Visits to premises for the purpose of disinfection after infectious disease	11
--	----

3. iv Shops Acts, 1912 to 1936.

The Inspector Reports:—

During the year I have made periodical inspections to the shops and found everything in order.

With regard to the closing hours, I have had to administer cautions in respect of two shops, and these now conform to the law.

The Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, which came into force on the 1st May, 1937, has been fully explained to those shopkeepers affected and I have found no breach of the law.

(Signed) C. J. NEALE.

3. (v) Smoke Abatement.

Informal action was taken in one case, but there was very little, if any, improvement. No complaints however were received, so formal action was not deemed necessary.

3 (vi) Swimming Pools.

There are no swimming pools or baths in the Borough, although considerable use is made by bathers of the rivers Severn and Avon.

3. (vii). Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Table 6.

	No. found to be Infested	No. Disinfested
Council Houses	—	—
Other Houses	7	7

“ Rodesco ” Liquid Insecticide is used for the purpose of disinfesting, the work being carried out by the Local Authority.

Advice is given to tenants affected as to how to prevent re-infestation.

4. Schools.

There has been no change in the number of schools in the town. All the schools have a main water supply and main drainage.

Diphtheria immunisation of school children. This is reported fully on page 14.

Housing.

Section D.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

i. By the Local Authority	...	Nil.
ii. By other Local Authorities	...	Nil.
iii. By private enterprise	...	4.
		<hr/>
	Total	4
		<hr/>

The houses owned by the Council now number 135 of which 116 were built under the Housing Acts, while 19 are old houses which have been bought and reconditioned by the Council. A number of the latter are far from satisfactory from the housing point of view.

The present housing scheme of the Council in which work is in progress consists of the erection of 12 tenements for aged persons and 16 houses in the Swilgate Road area and 22 houses in the Oldbury Gardens area.

During the year 1 Clearance Order consisting of 11 houses was confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

Seven more Clearance Areas were confirmed by the Council during the year consisting of 42 houses and these are now awaiting confirmation by the Ministry of Health, e.g.

Fletcher's Alley Clearance Area	...	2 houses.
Fish Alley Clearance Area ...	...	10 „
Evans' Alley Clearance Area...	...	2 „
Swilgate Road Clearance Area	...	6 „
Parker's Court Clearance Area	...	8 „
Freeman's Court Clearance Area	...	4 „
Bank Alley Clearance Area ...	...	10 „
		<hr/>
		42 houses.
		<hr/>

The problem of housing in Tewkesbury is a very difficult one, partly owing to the fact that housing is very congested, owing to the liability of flooding of the surrounding district; and also owing to the fact that the houses are in many cases old and picturesque.

It must be borne in mind that, however attractive a house or cottage may appear to the eye, if it is insanitary or injurious to the health of the occupants, or if it is in such a congested area that adequate air space, ventilation and lighting are not available, steps must be taken to remedy this, however drastic such steps may have to be. Human well-being is of more value than a pretty picture.

I Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

i	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	216
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	387
ii	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	214
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	385
iii		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	157
iv		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	59

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|-----|
| i | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 9 |
| ii | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | | |
| | (a) By owners | ... .. | 5 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | nil |

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts:*

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------|-----|
| i | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 4 |
| ii | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | |
| | (a) By owners | ... .. | 2 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | nil |

(c) *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|----|
| i | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 8 |
| ii | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | 18 |

(d) *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|-----|
| i | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | nil |
| ii | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	18
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	18
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	126
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... ..	5
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases...	98
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Section E.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 11 milk producers in the area of whom 5 are Accredited producers.

In the case of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited producers, supervision is carried out by the County Veterinary Staff, who visit the farms quarterly.

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Five samples of milk as supplied to schools in the town were taken and 2 were not quite satisfactory from the cleanliness point of view. The premises were visited and advice given as to how to remedy this.

Anthrax Order, 1928.

During the year there were no actual or suspected cases.

Meat and other Foods.

There are 5 Registered Slaughter houses in the district. Three-hundred-and-thirteen visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector. Only 3 out of the 5 slaughter houses are in regular use and these are kept in good condition.

Table 7.

Carcases Inspected and Carcases or parts of Carcases Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed ...	178	—	44	914	525	1661
Number Inspected ...	118	—	21	510	358	1007
Percentage of carcases inspected to those killed ...	66·3	—	47·7	55·8	68·1	60·6
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	—	1	8	5	32
(c) Percentage of Number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	15·1	—	4·7	1·5	1·6	3·2
Tuberculosis only						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	—	—	—	14	21
(c) Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5·9	—	—	—	3·0	2·08

As will be seen from the above table, one whole carcase had to be condemned for non-tuberculous disease, but none for tuberculosis, and the percentage number of animals showing any form of disease is low. The fact that over 60% of the animals slaughtered in the town have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector is very satisfactory.

Adulteration, etc.

The Acts under this heading are administered by the County Council.

Bakehouses.

There are 8 bakehouses in the area. Forty-four visits were paid and on the whole most of them were kept in a satisfactory condition.

Infectious Disease.

Section F.

(ii)

During the year there were only 3 cases of Infectious Disease (Scarlet Fever) in children of school age, while the total number of infectious disease notifications was only 8 (see Table 9).

There were 4 notifications of Tuberculosis during the year (see Table 10).

It is interesting to note that for the year 1898 (the first year of which I have records) there were 99 cases of infectious disease, comprising the following:—

Scarlet Fever	...	88
Diphtheria	...	6
Enteric Fever	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	1
Erysipelas	...	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Towards the end of 1937, the Council adopted a free Immunisation Scheme for children in the Borough, between the ages of 2 and 8 years. The method consists of one injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid, a substance derived from Diphtheria Toxin.

To all intents and purposes this causes no reaction in the child and makes it practically certain after a few weeks that the child will not develop diphtheria.

The work is done by the child's own doctor, the Council providing the material and the medical fee. The doctors in the town have been very helpful and have taken up the scheme enthusiastically.

So far the parents of 74 children have agreed to this treatment, while 112 have refused. For a new scheme this is satisfactory, but it is a pity that there are such a number of parents who refuse to have their children immunised against such a dangerous disease as diphtheria, especially when the value of the treatment has been proved.

Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Table 8.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	8	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	55	2	—
Workplaces (other than Out- workers premises)... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL	63	2	—

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects	
	Found	Remedied
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—		
Want of Cleanliness	6	5
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	1	1
TOTAL	7	6

No cases were referred to H.M. Inspector and no prosecutions were instituted.

Notifiable Infectious Disease in 1937 by age groups.

Table 9.

	Under 1 Year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	20 -	35 -	45 -	65 -	Total	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	8	8	...
Enteric including Paratyphoid
*Puerperal Fever (to October 1st, 1937
Puerperal Pyrexia
Pneumonia
Erysipelas
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis
Opt. Neonatorum

On and after Oct. 1st, 1937, cases of Puerperal Fever are grouped with cases of Puerpal Pyrexia (Public Health Act, 1936).

Table 10.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS (in years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15+	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
20+	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
25+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35+	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age not known	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...

Table 11. No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end of the last 2 years

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1936	16	6	3	5	30
1937	16	5	1	4	26

Table 12. No. of new cases and Deaths in the last 2 years.

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1936	5	...	...	...	3	1	1	...
1937	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	..

There were no cases of Tuberculosis coming to notice other than by formal notification.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172). This section repeals section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

No action has been necessary under the above Regulations and Acts.

Table 13. CAUSES OF DEATH.

In Tewkesbury Borough, 1937.

(classified according to the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes).

Causes of Death.				Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	2	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	3	—
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	—	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer-Malignant Disease	...	...	6	3
14	Diabetes	...	...	2	—
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	1	1
16	Heart Disease	...	...	9	3
17	Aneurysm	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	7	—
19	Bronchitis	...	...	1	—
20	Pneumonia—all forms	...	...	3	2
21	Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	1	1
23	Diarrhœa, etc., under 2 years	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, &c.	...	...	—	1
32	Senility	...	...	1	5
33	Suicide	...	...	2	1
34	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	2	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	2	2
36	Other Diseases Ill-defined or unknown	...	...	—	—
Total Deaths				46	22

